



State of Utah

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## Tool contractor pleads guilty To State tax evasion charges

An independent tool contractor handed over \$25,000 in taxes, penalties and interest Monday in 3<sup>rd</sup> District Court after pleading guilty to two misdemeanor tax charges.

Paul Ben Zaccardi, 49, Sandy, admitted to failing to file proper tax returns after an investigation by the Utah State Tax Commission led to charges being filed by the Utah Attorney General's Office.

Zaccardi was convicted for failing to pay taxes on nearly \$100,000 income during 1999 and 2000. He was ordered to remain on probation for 3 years and make sure he has paid taxes for other years not covered in the criminal complaint. The judge also ordered Zaccardi to give up his anti-tax activities.

"The Tax Commission's criminal investigation office continues to diligently seek out those people who fail to pay their fair share of state taxes," State Tax Commission Chair Pam Hendrickson said. "In addition to paying back taxes, those who fail to comply with the law risk severe penalties and possible jail time."

"We rely on taxes to educate our children. It's only right that everyone pays their fair share of taxes," says Attorney General Mark Shurtleff.

Zaccardi was originally charged with two second-degree felony and two third-degree felony tax charges. Those charges carry possible two 0-5 year and two 1-15 year sentences in the state prison. He was allowed to plead to reduced charges in exchange for paying all taxes, penalties and interest.

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